



United States Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS)

The Military Auxiliary Radio System is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as separate managed and operated programs by the Army, and Air Force. The program consists of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in military communications. They contribute to the MARS mission providing auxiliary or emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

MARS Mission

- Provide Department of Defense sponsored emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

First let me introduce myself. My name is Randy B. Maurer, and I served with the Navy Marine Corps MARS program until it was shuttered and now I serve with Air Force MARS. I have been an Amateur Radio Operator for 52 years primarily running thousands of phone patches for deployed service personnel.

This letter is written to strongly oppose ARRL proposal entitled FCC RM-11831 for restrictions on digital communications that will severely impact our strong relationship with the amateur radio community and the MARS program. This will also impact the Shared Resources (SHARES) communications network and their relationship with the amateur radio community.

I strongly encourage those in the decision making process to seriously consider the ramifications to the communications that all these volunteer non-paid groups perform during not only times of emergency but during community public service events
Sincerely,

Randy B. Maurer WA3HLP
MARS Base Support Team
Fort Indiantown Gap Warrior Training Grounds
Pennsylvania State Air Force MARS Emergency Coordinator